AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

Bills Pending with Government for Approval

3458. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of the Bills received from different States which are at present pending with the Central Government for approval; and

(b) since when these Bills are lying pending and by when these are expected to be disposed of either by giving assent or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the information about the Bills received from different States, which are pending for President's assent is attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 126]. It is not possible to indicate any definite time by which these Bills are likely to be disposed of.

Opening of Bank Branches

3459. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for the opening of a bank branch; and

(b) whether these criteria are uniform in respect of all the States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The criteria for opening a bank branch in the rural and semi-urban areas are spelt out in the Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90. The policy is applicable to all the States and Union Territories and envisages a coverage of 17,000 population by one bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and availability of at least one bank office within a distance of 10 kms. from every village. In the hilly tracts, sparsely populated regions and tribal areas, the population coverage norm is relaxed from 17,000 to 12,000/10,000. Branch expansion in urban/metropolitan centres is considered by RBI on the basis of proposals submitted by banks keeping in view the need of the area, viability of the proposed branch and other relevant factors.

Sale of Jute to Japan

3460. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated negotiations with Japan for the sale of jute to that country; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in the said negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Credit by Banks for Key Areas in West Bengal

3461. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what was the national goal to be attained by the public